



Sea and Be Seen

A masterwork of craftsmanship, J Craft's Torpedo motorboat launches in the United States

> **IN THIS AGE** of hypervisibility, a breathtaking first impression is rare. Even though they're beautiful, many extravagant vehicles—a matte-black Lamborghini SUV, a factory-fresh Gulfstream G700—feel a little overexposed because of digital culture. But this is definitely not the case with J Craft's Torpedo, a luxury motorboat made entirely by hand on Sweden's Gotland, a windswept, picturesque island in the middle of the Baltic Sea.

The company's sole model, the Torpedo features a unique design. A muscular hull tapers and twists inward to a narrowed stern, while fin accents add a nostalgic flair (these also protect riders from upward spray). In the sunlight, the boat's responsibly sourced mahogany wood glows red-serene, but ready for speed. And though it is 42 feet long, the Torpedo moves and banks with the prowess of a race car.

Starting at \$1.5 million, the boats take 8,500 hours to complete. There are only 20 of them in the world, making them not only extremely rare, but also highly prized. Now, the company is ready to launch sales in the United States, having premiered at the Palm Beach International Boat Show earlier this year. That's great news for state-side buyers—but let's hope the company maintains the scarcity so those awe-inspiring first impressions keep coming.



- ▶ 1** In a nod to the excellence of European automotive engineering, J Craft commissions classic steering wheels by the Italian manufacturer Nardi.
- ▶ 2** Rich—and rain-for-est-safe—mahogany comprises much of the Torpedo's interior. In finished form, the wood carries roughly 20 coats of varnish and lacquer to guarantee a lustrous shine.

- ▶ 3** The transom, or strengthening crossbar at a boat's stern, is curved using a centuries-old Swedish technique. The wood is superheated in a long steam oven to the point where it becomes malleable. After J Craft workers use a saddle to bend it into a perfect arc, the plank is fixed in place with vices for a week so that it sets.

- ▶ 4** The boat's signature fins add a distinct aesthetic element and protect riders from upward splashes.
- ▶ 5** An ideal place to lounge in the sun on custom-installed Loro Piana or Hermès leather. Beneath this landing is a cavernous space housing high-performance Volvo Penta engines.
- ▶ 6** The Torpedo comes with a flattop grill and, as an added option, silver cutlery designed by Prince Carl Philip of Sweden. The cooking area is housed behind the boat's passenger seat.
- ▶ 7** Beneath the bow and the boat's center console are a spacious cabin, full-service bathroom and sleeping area.